

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3011-001**  
**The American Presidency**  
**Spring 2011**

Dr. L. McNown  
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303/492-3998  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-12:00

Class meets:  
Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15  
Hellums 201

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And by appointment

Although the American system of government was designed as a "republic," the best description of it today is as a "presidential system" of government. In this course we will explore the historical foundations, development, and institutionalization of the presidency. The Constitutional evolution of the office will be examined. And, we will study the Presidency as it relates to the system of separation of powers.

The first section of the course will begin with an examination of the historical basis for the presidency. Particular attention will be paid to the conception of the presidency as created by the Framers. The evolution of presidential power will be emphasized.

The second section of the course will focus on the more public aspects of the presidency. We will first discuss the nomination, financing, and election of the president. This will be followed by an examination of such issues as the relation between the president and the public, the media, and the concept of the personalized presidency. We will monitor the performance of the Obama administration. We will also explore the institutionalization of the presidency in this section. The evolution of the Executive Office of the President will merit particular attention.

The final section will study the presidency in relation to other institutions, particularly the Congress and the Judiciary. A case study of Watergate will be presented. This episode will be discussed as a test of separation of powers theory. This case study will also allow an examination of presidential leadership and personality.

**BOOKS AND READING**--There are four required books to purchase for this course. They are:

Pika, Joseph A. and Maltese, John Anthony, *The Politics of the Presidency*, seventh edition, 2008.

Wayne, Stephen J. *Road to the White House 2008*, 2008.

Nelson, Michael, ed. *The Evolving Presidency*, third edition, 2008.

Ellis, Richard J. and Nelson, Michael, eds. *Debating the Presidency: Conflicting Perspectives on the American Executive*, 2010

It is also suggested that you refer to a style manual in the preparation of your paper. You may wish to purchase:

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*.

These books are available at the University Bookstore and the Colorado Bookstore. It is also expected that students will read a daily newspaper such as the *New York Times* in order to keep abreast of developments in the presidency.

In addition, articles will be posted on CULearn that illustrate concepts presented in class. You will be responsible for reading these articles.

**EXAMINATIONS**--Two exams and one final examination will be given. Examinations will be composed of essay and short essay questions. Examinations will cover lecture and reading assignments. Essay questions in particular will ask for a synthesis of information from the various sources including texts, lecture, and current events. Students are expected to communicate their knowledge in well written essays.

**NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN.** If a mid-term examination is missed FOR ANY REASON an additional, take home section of the final exam will be required. This section will be comprehensive and seek a mastery of the major themes of the course.

The additional section of the final may also be used to attempt to raise the course grade. If a student is dissatisfied with a mid-term grade s/he may choose to complete this section of the final. If the grade for the optional section is higher than the midterm grade it will replace the midterm grade. This take-home as will be assigned on April 21 and due, at the in-class final, on April 30.

You must turn in three blank examination books. These blue books will be redistributed with your midterms and final exam. It is the student's responsibility to pick-up and retain graded exams and papers until after final exam grades are assigned.

#### **EXAM DATES:**

Exam I – February 10.

Exam II – March 17.

Final Exam -- Saturday, April 30, 4:30-7:00 pm.

#### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

There are two types of required written assignments for this class.

**Critical Essay:** You will be required to write one critical essay this semester based on an academic article relating to course material. An article will be assigned in each of the three sections of the course and you may choose which assignment to complete. If you write two essays the lowest grade will be dropped. The paper will require an evaluation of an academic article. A synthesis of knowledge of lecture and class reading will be required in this evaluation. Specific information relating to expectations will be provided at the time of the first assigned paper. If you complete two essays the lowest grade will be dropped. No late papers will be accepted. All papers must be in hard copy. **No electronic papers will be accepted.**

#### **CRITICAL ESSAY DATES:**

	Assigned on CULearn	Due, in class
Essay I	January 27	February 3
Essay II	March 3	March 10
Essay III	April 14	April 21

**Debate Memo:** One of the assigned books, *Debating the Presidency*, presents conflicting viewpoints on issues regarding the presidency. For each of the three sections of the one of the chapters will be selected for analysis. You must complete two memos. If you complete three memos the lowest grade will be dropped.

No late papers will be assigned. Detailed instructions will be provided at the time of the first assignment. **No electronic papers will be accepted.**

#### DEBATE MEMO DATES:

	Assigned on CULearn	Due, in class
Memo 1	January 20	January 27
Memo 2	February 17	February 24
Memo 3	March 31	April 7

GRADING--Exams and the paper will be assigned the following weights:

Exam I -- 20%

Exam II -- 20%

Critical Review -- 15%

Two Event Analyses each worth 10% -- 20%

Final Exam -- 25%

#### Class Policies

(1) If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services before the fourth Week of classes so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)

(2) Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you must inform the instructor of religious obligations two weeks in advance of a conflict.

(3) Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

(4) The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

(5) All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

## Course Schedule

WEEK OF:	TOPIC:	READING:	ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS, AND COMMENTS:
<b>Week of January 10</b>	Introduction, The Creation of the Presidency/Enumerated Powers	Pika and Maltese, ch. 1 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 1, 2, 3,4,13,41	Always check CULearn for additional articles.
<b>Week of January 17</b>	Theories and Practices of a Constitutional Presidency	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #6,12, 14, 20 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 1	Memo #1 assigned January 20.
<b>Week of January 24</b>	Growth in Presidential Power/Inherent Powers	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 5, 24, 26,29	Memo # 1 due, in class on January 27. Essay # 1 assigned January 27.
<b>Week of January 31</b>	Presidential War Powers/Foreign Policy Prerogatives	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #10, 31, 32, 35, 38, 45, 51 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 7	Essay #1 due, in class, February 3.
<b>Week of February 7</b>	Are Undefined Powers also Unlimited?	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #29 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 8	Exam #1, February 10.
<b>Week of February 14</b>	Presidential Nominations and Election	Wayne, ch. 1,4,5 Pika and Maltese, ch. 2 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , # 37 Ellis and Nelson ch. 2	Memo #2 assigned February 17.
<b>Week of February 21</b>	Campaign Finance	Wayne, ch. 2, pp. 350-354	Memo #2 due, in class, February 24.
<b>Week of February 28</b>	The Electoral College  After the Election/The transition/First 100 days	Wayne, all pages in index under "Electoral College." Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #49 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 3 Pika and Maltese, ch. 11	Essay #2 assigned March 3.

<b>Week of March 7</b>	The Presidency and the Media	Wayne, ch. 8 Pika and Maltese, ch. 3 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 5	Essay #2 due, in class, March 10.
<b>Week of March 14</b>	The Presidential Institution	Pika and Maltese, ch. 6 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #23, 25, 28 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 4, ch. 11	Exam #2, March 17.
<b>Week of March 21</b>			<i>Spring Break</i>
<b>Week March 28</b>	The President and Congress	Pika and Maltese, ch. 5 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 13, 44, 47 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 6, ch. 9	Memo #3 assigned March 31.
<b>Week of April 4</b>	The President and the Court/The President and the Bureaucracy	Pika and Maltese, ch 7 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 27 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 10	Memo # 3 due, in class, April 7.
<b>Week of April 11</b>	A test of presidential powers and separation of powers—Watergate.	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #1, 18, 39, 40, 48 ,	Essay #3 assigned, in class, April 14.
<b>Week of April 18</b>	Presidential Powers in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century. The Obama Presidency	Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #52,53	Essay #3 due, in class, April 21.  Take-home portion of final assigned April 21. The take-home portion is due at the final exam April 30.
<b>Week of April 25</b>	Presidential Leadership and Personality / Presidential Greatness Revisited	Pika and Maltese, ch. 4 Nelson, <i>Evolving</i> , #15, 24, 31, 34, 42 Ellis and Nelson, ch. 12. Ch. 13	Last Day of class April 28.

**Final Exam, Saturday, April 30, 4:30-7:00 pm in Hellums 201.**